



Citizen science as a promoter of environmental civility and Nature conservation

Mitforschen! Das Citizen-Science-Festival

Berlin - 14 & 15 October 2020

Promoter:



Co-funding:

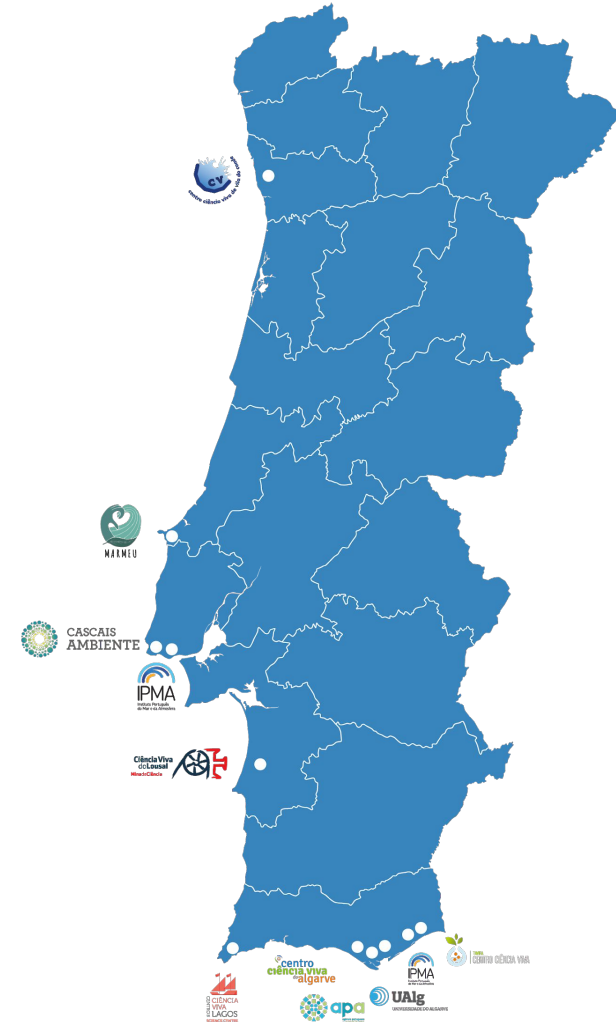


Partners:



What is *Ação Lixo Marinho!* about?

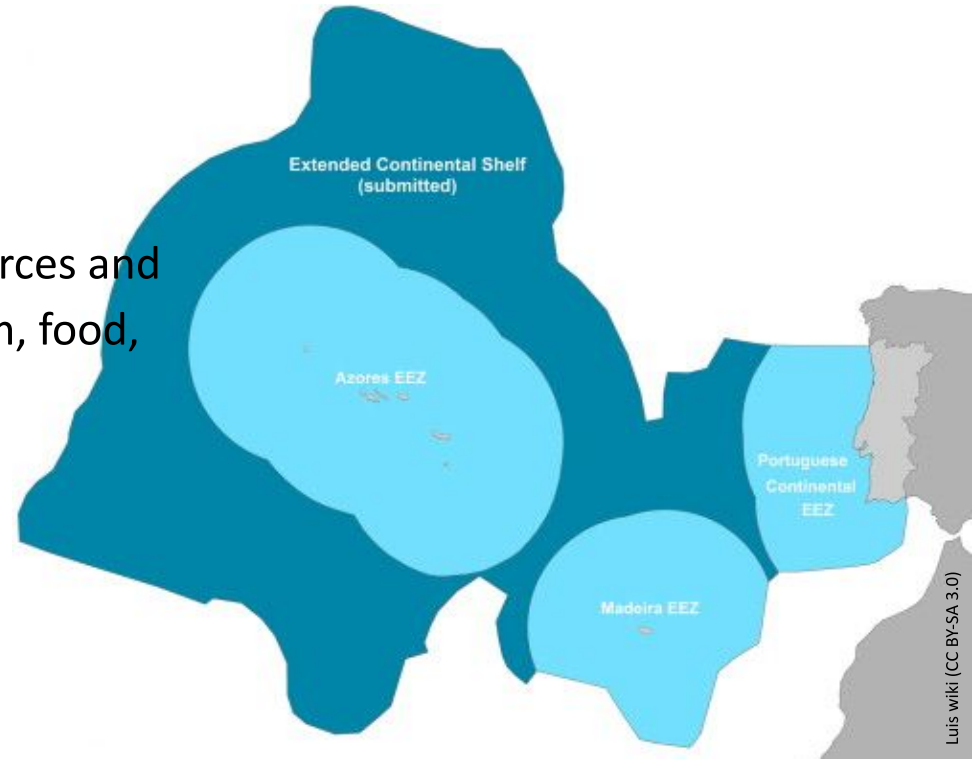
- We are a Portuguese Ocean Literacy project that uses a **Citizen Science** framework as a strategy to raise awareness towards marine litter and its impacts.
- Our funding comes from **Fundo Azul**, a governmental financial incentive mechanism from the Ministry of the Sea.
- Our action extends to the whole country, relying on 12 regional entities connected to science communication, research, environmental management, and an environmental NGO.



How does marine litter affects Portugal?

- A long coastline (almost 1800km)
- An ample EEZ (>1.7 million km²)
- Continental and island territories
- Cultural and historical ties to the Ocean
- Economical subsistence based on resources and services provided by the Ocean (tourism, food, transportation, minerals, etc.)

BUT... there is still a great lack of knowledge among the Portuguese population regarding individual and collective responsibility for the existence of marine litter.





Our purpose is:

- Raise awareness
- Encourage reflection
- Change behaviours

January 2020 - December 2021
(extended till March 2022)

Establish future generations that perceive the Ocean, its resources and its services as a wealth to be responsibly exploited.



Promoting Citizen Science activities:

Regular monitoring of litter on beaches (adaptation of OSPAR methods)



How?



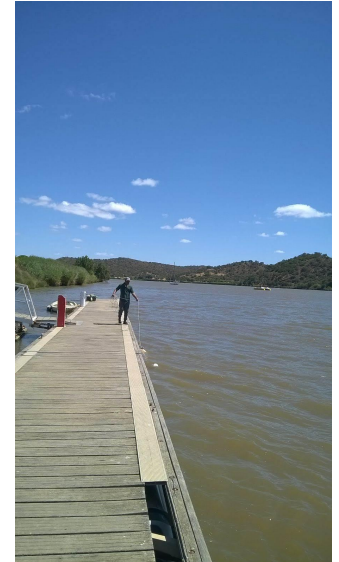
Promoting Citizen Science activities:

Beach sediment collection for microplastic quantification



Promoting Citizen Science activities:

Seawater collection for microplastic quantification



Call to awareness actions in socially important venues (local markets, beaches, fairs, etc.):

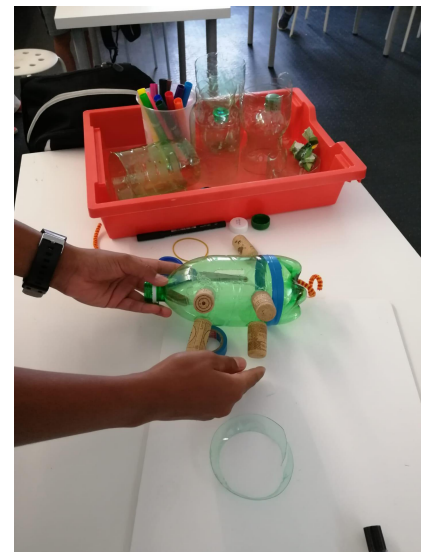
Beach clean ups



Local markets



Creative repurposing workshops





How?

Lectures and participatory debates with local stakeholders and decision-makers to discuss, educate and alert for the escalation of marine litter



COMING SOON!

Do Citizen Science activities help achieve the project's ambitions?

Make larger volumes of data available
to the scientific community



Lead participants to directly
understand and assess the
scale of the problem



Broaden the public's interest and
understanding of how Science and the
scientific method work

Promote awareness of the
environmental risks caused by
the presence of litter at sea
(particularly plastic packaging
arising from everyday
consumption)

Boost feelings of engaged citizenship and
environmental civility as they mobilise the population
to reduce waste on the beaches by collecting it

Do Citizen Science activities help achieve the project's ambitions?

We believe yes,
they do!

Ação Lixo Marinho! and UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda



Project aim - bring to the public's attention how disproportionate consumption of the limited available resources, coupled with bad practices in waste management is the reason why marine litter has become such a complex and burdensome problem.

Project action - encourage behavioural changes that make the participants engage in responsible consumption and demand the establishment of circular economy patterns, especially when it comes to the most abundant component of marine litter: plastic.



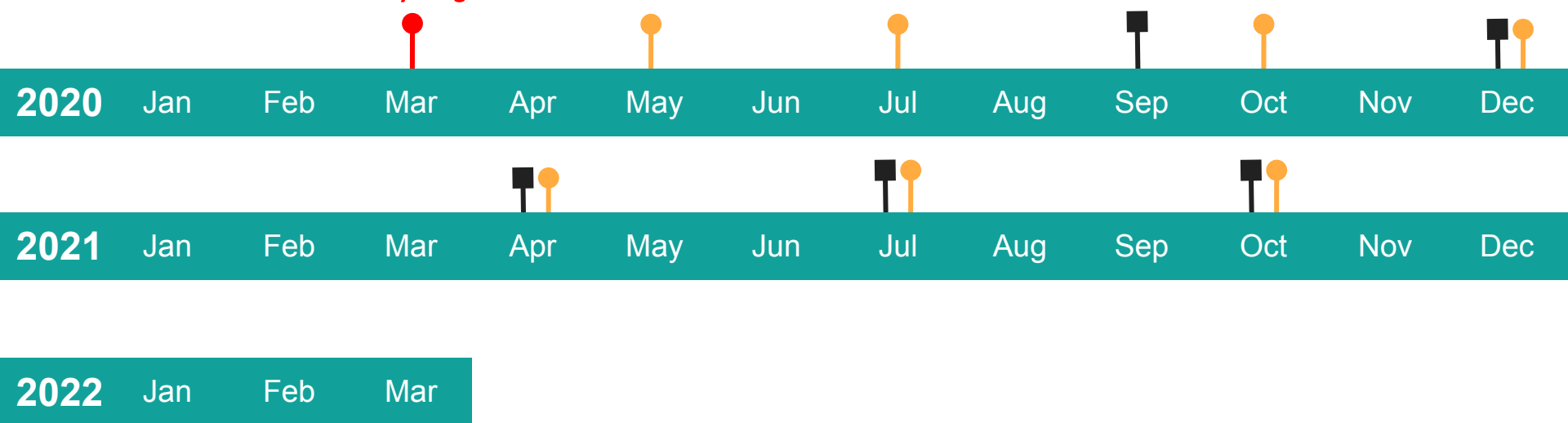
Project aim - raise public alertness towards the importance of marine ecosystems services and of the economical and environmental impact of the increasing quantities of waste in the Ocean, conservation of marine wildlife and marine ecosystems services while sustainably profiting from its resources.

Project action - contribute to reducing marine pollution by carrying out beach cleanups, which promote the conservation of coastal and marine areas, the protection and restoration of ecosystems; facilitating the participation in Citizen Science activities that support increased knowledge about the Ocean's health and resiliency

Citizen Science activities

Timeline

COVID-19 ruins everything!



Beach sediment collection for microplastic quantification

Regular monitoring of litter on beaches

Seawater collection for microplastic quantification

To be scheduled!



Thank you for attending!

Find out more about us:

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